

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the non-final Office Action dated December 22, 2010.

By the Amendment herewith, Applicant clarifies independent claims 1, 9 and 19 to recite, in part, "so that there is formed a visual stimulus that functions as an indication of how the view shown on the display continues outside the view, in the direction of the visual stimulus."

Support for the foregoing feature exists in the specification at, for example, pages 3-4, which discloses (emphasis added):

For an entity to be shown at the same time, applications represented in small portable devices would often require a remarkably larger space than what is available on the display of the small device, and therefore only part of said entity can be shown at a time, and part of the application or of a function connected to said application is hidden from view but still functionally continues even outside the view shown on the display. Typically the application element, function, object or target left outside the view forms part of the application or of the represented data in similar fashion as the shown elements: the elements left outside the view are available and have an effect to the application in a similar way as the visible elements shown on the display screen. *According to an embodiment of the invention, there is formed to the user a visual stimulus that functions as an indication of how the view shown on the display continues outside the view, in the direction of the visual stimulus.* The perceived indication affects the user's choices and operations in the current view. For example in game applications, the user has time to react to the approaching situation, when the approaching situation is indicated in advance, so that the user can prepare himself for the situation. The location and/or direction of a situation, information, function or the like, left outside the current view, is typically indicated by controlling the light units arranged around the display, so that there are lighted up those light units that are located in the same direction with respect to the display view as the information to be indicated.

Accordingly, no new matter is introduced into the application as a result of the foregoing amendments.

Thus, upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-3, 5-17 and 19-22 remain pending. Of those claims, claims 1, 9 and 19 are independent.

In the outstanding non-final Office Action, claims 1-13, 15, 19 and 20-22 are rejected under 35 USC Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshiki (JP 2003062268) in view of Yokoi (US 4,542,903) and Crudginton (US 4,477,069). Dependent claim 14 is rejected under 35 USC Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshiki in view of Yokoi, Crudginton and Langlais (US 5,184,956). Dependent claim 16 is rejected under 35 USC Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshiki in view of Yokoi, Crudginton and Kawai (US 20040229691). Lastly, dependent claim 17 is rejected under 35 USC Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshiki in view of Yokoi, Crudginton and Hayashida (US 6,409,596).

The foregoing rejections are respectfully disagreed with, and are traversed below.

Independent claims 1, 9 and 19 recite, in part, respectively (emphasis added):

1. An apparatus comprising ... information-indicating light units are arranged to indicate information concerning a display unit application object located only outside a current view of the display unit so that there is formed a visual stimulus that functions as an indication of how the view shown on the display continues outside the view, in the direction of the visual stimulus ...and the light units are located around the display unit.

9. A method comprising ... controlling the information-indicating light units, which are located around the display unit such that information concerning a display unit application object located only outside the current view of the display unit is indicated by the information-indicating light units so that there is formed a visual

stimulus that functions as an indication of how the view shown on the display continues outside the view, in the direction of the visual stimulus.

19. An apparatus comprising a display unit application located only outside the current view of the display unit so that there is formed a visual stimulus that functions as an indication of how the view shown on the display continues outside the view, in the direction of the visual stimulus, wherein the light units are located around the display unit.

It is initially noted that newly cited Crudgington fails to disclose or suggest multiple external indicators to indicate objects located only outside the current view of the display. Namely, Fig. 3C has a plurality of indicator lights 30 that display, for example, low fuel warning, a radar warning that illuminates when an enemy approaches, low altitude warning, etc. The fuel warning and altitude warning are not related to application objects only outside a current view of the display unit, but of the state of the flying vehicle of the game. Also, the radar warning is not disclosed to go off when an enemy becomes visible on the main screen (the display shown in the middle section of Fig. 3C). Thus, the radar warning cannot be an indicator to indicate objects located only outside of the current view. Moreover, the display 31 is disclosed to show "all team members remaining in the game". This display shows which of the players are alive in the game, but it has nothing to do with their location in the game. Hence, even if a remaining player were shown on the main display, the respective light would still be lit on display 31.

Thus, Crudgington fails to disclose or suggest the recited feature of Applicant's independent claims that "the information-indicating light units are arranged to indicate information concerning a display unit application object located only outside a current view of the display unit."

Further, while some static games are made portable, there are games the appeal of which is in their very nature (such as playing a large gambling game in a play hall). The Office Action admitted that Yoshiki is lacking the teaching of a portable device and used Yokoi (US4542903A) in an attempt to bridge this gap in the

Examiner's obviousness rejection. In particular, the Examiner contends in the Office Action that Yokoi would provide motivation to produce a gaming device that is as compact as possible (based on col. 1, lines 10-16 and lines 25-26). However, the Yokoi disclosure is not related to gaming devices as a whole, but to a hand-held game apparatus where characters are moveable for playing a game. It is respectfully submitted that Yokoi fails to provide an overall teaching to make all types of games portable. The Pachinko game of Yoshiki is not of such nature that a skilled person would have thought of that game when reading the teaching of Yokoi to make handheld games more compact. The Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to Applicant's discussion and picture of a Pachinko machine set forth in Applicant's prior Amendment.

Additionally, for further clarification, a new feature has been added to the independent claims that specifies that "*there is formed a visual stimulus that functions as an indication of how the view shown on the display continues outside the view, in the direction of the visual stimulus.*" Applicant respectfully asserts that such a feature is clearly missing from the teachings of newly cited Crudgington, as well as the other cited references.

For at least the above reasons, it is respectfully asserted that the Examiner's proposed combination would not result in the subject matter recited in Applicant's independent claims. Nor is there any reason to combine and modify the teachings of the cited references in an attempt to arrive at Applicant's claimed subject matter.

Accordingly, as independent claims 1, 9 and 19 are believed to be patentable, all claims depending therefrom, also are patentable at least in view of their dependency from an allowable independent claim. For completion, it is respectfully noted that the addition of Langlais fails to cure the shortcomings noted above and thus no combination of these references can disclose or suggest Applicant's claimed subject matter.

All issues having been addressed, the subject application is believed to be in condition for immediate allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully

requested to withdraw the outstanding rejections. A Notice of Allowance is therefore earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner have any questions, a call to the undersigned would be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted:

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